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My Sr Dear Mercy

Mr. *Prince's*

FAST & THANKSGIVING

SERMONS

ON THE

EARTHQUAKE

EARTHQUAKES *the Works of* GOD *& Tokens of his juſt Diſpleaſure.*

Two SERMONS

On

PSAL. xviii. 7.

At the Particular *Faſt* in *Boſton*, Nov. 2. and the General *Thanksgiving*, Nov. 9.

Occaſioned

By the late dreadful

EARTHQUAKE.

WHEREIN

Among other things is offered a brief ACCOUNT of the *Natural Cauſes* of theſe Operations in the Hands of GOD: With a RELATION of ſome *late terrible Ones* in *other Parts* of the World, as well as thoſe that have been perceived in *New-England* ſince it's Settlement by *Engliſh* Inhabitants.

By THOMAS PRINCE, *M. A.*
And one of the Paſtors of the South Church *in* Boſton.

The Second Edition Corrected.

Pſal. cix. 2. *The Works of the* LORD *are Great, ſought out of all them that have Pleaſure therein.*
Pſal. lvi. 5. *Come & ſee the Works of* GOD! *He is terrible in his Doing toward the Children of Men.*

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MDCCXXVII.

Two SERMONS

ON

PSALM xviii. 7.

At the Particular Fast in Bolton, Nov. 2.
And the General Thanksgiving, Nov. 9.

Occasioned

By the late Earthquake.

BY THOMAS PRINCE, M. A.
And one of the Pastors of the South Church in Boston.

The Second Edition Corrected.

BRITISH MUSEUM

The PREFACE.

Giving a Summary Account of the OCCASION of the following Sermons.

ON the NIGHT *after the Lord's Day* Octob. 29. *about* 40 *Minutes past* X, *in a calm & serene Hour, the Town of* BOSTON *was on a sudden extreamly surpriz'd with the most violent Shock of an* EARTHQUAKE *that has been known among us. It came on with a loud hollow Noise like the Roaring of a Great fired Chimney, but incomparably more fierce & terrible. In about* half a Minute *the Earth began to heave and tremble: The Shock increasing, rose to the Hight in about a* Minute *more, when the Moveables, Doors, Windows, Walls, especially in the upper Chambers, made a very fearful Clattering, and the Houses rock'd & crackl'd, as if they were all dissolving and falling to pieces. The People asleep were awakened with the greatest astonishment: many others affrighted run into the Streets for Safety. But the Shaking quickly abated, and in another* half Minute *intirely ceased.*

THE Noise & Shakes seem'd to come from the Norwestward, *and to go off* Southeasterly; *and so the Houses seemed to reel. Some Damage was done to the more brittle sort of Moveables, and some Bricks on the Tops of some Chimneys fell; but not an House was broken, nor a Creature hurt. At several times till* Day-light, *were heard some distant Rumblings, and some fainter Shocks were felt: But since, the Earth has been quiet in* Town, *tho' the minds of many continue very greatly & justly affected.*

IN

Mountains ſeem to touch the Clouds, and the Heavens themſelves to bear upon them *(j)*. In this reſpect the Foundations of the Hills appear to the Eye, with that Magnificence & Grandeur, as if they were the Pillars and Foundations of Heaven it ſelf.

But tho' the words be a mere Alluſion; yet there muſt needs be a Juſtice & Propriety in it; and they muſt allude to Realities: And what can they be but theſe,---

1. That when the Earth ſhakes & trembles, and the Foundations of the Hills move and are ſhaken, It is the great God himſelf that ſhakes and ſets them a moving.
2. That He does this terrible Work becauſe He is Wroth, and thereby He expreſſes his fearful Diſpleaſure.

These two things are fairly implied in the Text, as the very Ground and Occaſion of this proper Alluſion. It is the moſt High God himſelf that as the Firſt Cauſe makes the Earth to tremble: And this He does becauſe He is Angry, and thereby He clearly ſhows that He is ſo. Theſe may be therefore the Obſervations before us,

Obſ. 1. *THAT when the Earth ſhakes and trembles, and the Foundations alſo of the Hills move and are ſhaken, It is the Great GOD Himſelf that ſhakes and ſets them a moving.*

The Pſalmiſt here uſes a Variety of Phraſes expreſſing nearly the ſame Idea, to repreſent the Repetition and Fearfulneſs of this Divine Operation, and raiſe our Minds to the moſt ſolemn and ſenſible Conceptions of it. But for the Illuſtration of this, I ſhall endeavour theſe three things,

1. To give ſome Deſcription of this dreadful Event of Providence.
2. To conſider ſomething of the natural Cauſes.

(j) *Jackſon on* 2 *Sam.* XXII. 8.

And

AND then,

3. And laſtly, LEAD you up to GOD as having the higheſt and principal Agency in this tremendous Action.

I. *TO give ſome Deſcription of this terrible Event of Providence*, the ſhaking and trembling of the Earth.

AN Earthquake may very poſſibly be UNIVERSAL. There are doubtleſs Proviſions enough in Nature to produce ſuch a one. Every Place on Earth, at ev'ry Seaſon of the Year, and at ev'ry moment of the Day and Night, is doubtleſs liable to theſe Concuſſions. Whole Continents have trembled at once, with their neighbouring Iſlands, tho' the deep Channels of the Seas lay between them. And as the ſame Cauſes may concur & operate in the four Quarters of the Globe at once, they may at the ſame time effect a univerſal Convulſion.

SUCH a Shake of the whole Earth there ſeems to have been both at the Paſſion and Reſurrection of it's mighty REDEEMER. Matth. XXVII. 50,---52. *Jeſus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the Ghoſt: And behold the Vail of the Temple was rent in twain from the Top to the Bottom: and the Earth did Quake, and the Rocks rent*, &c. The Sun & Heavens had been vail'd with Darkneſs for three Hours before, at his dying Groans *: And now the Earth was ſtruck with Trembling at his Expiration. And at his Riſing out of the Grave, we read in the following Chapter at the firſt Verſe, *And behold there was a great Earthquake.*

How fit was it that the whole Earth ſhou'd tremble; when the Maker, the Upholder, the Lord and the Saviour of it, was ſtruggling in the Pangs of Death, and his Soul & Body were violently rending aſunder? And why ſhou'd not the whole Earth be moved; when He break out of the Bowels of it, in

* *Mark* XV. 33,---37. *Luk.* XXIII. 44,---46.

which He had been impriſoned, to reſcue it out of the Hands of thoſe infernal Powers that had for ſo many Ages uſurped the Dominion over it.

Of this ſurprizing Time it was foretold in, Hag. II. 6, 7. *For thus ſaith the Lord of Hoſts, yet once it is a little while and I will ſhake the Heavens, and the Earth, and the Sea, and the dry Land: and I will ſhake all Nations;* † *And the Deſire of all Nations ſhall come, and I will fill this Houſe with Glory, ſaith the Lord of Hoſts.* And thus the Apoſtle explains it in *Heb.* XII. 26. — *e*: tho' doubtleſs with a further View to a more aſtoniſhing Fulfilment at our Bleſſed Saviour's Second Appearance.

However, The Great and dreadful Day is haſtening, when there ſhall be an univerſal Convulſion in this lower World. Of this amazing Time we read in Iſa. XXIV. 1, &c. *Behold the Lord makes the Earth empty, and makes it waſte, and turneth it upſide down, and ſcattereth abroad the Inhabitants thereof. — Fear, and the Pit, and the Snare, are upon thee, O Inhabitant of the Earth! And it ſhall come to paſs that He who fleeth from the Noiſe of the Fear ſhall fall into the Pit: And he that cometh up out of the midſt of the Pit ſhall be taken in the Snare: For the Windows from on High are open, and the Foundations of the Earth do ſhake: The Earth is utterly broken down, the Earth is clean diſſolved, the Earth is moved exceedingly: The Earth ſhall reel to & fro like a Drunkard, and ſhall be removed like a Cottage, and the Tranſgreſſion thereof ſhall be heavy upon it, and it ſhall fall and not riſe again.*

Whoever diligently reads this Chapter and attentively Compares it with 2 *Pet.* III. *Rev.* XX. and other Places of the Holy Propheſies, where the very ſame things are mentioned, will doubtleſs clearly ſee that theſe Predictions of an Univerſal Earthquake

† So, Ver. 21, 22,

refer to the End of this preſent State of the World, when there will alſo immediately come on an univerſal Conflagration. Firſt, The Earth will extreamly ſhake and reel to and fro: and therewith the Buildings on it muſt need make a dreadful crackling Noiſe and tumble to Ruins. On this account 'tis ſaid, The Inhabitants ſhall *Fly from the Noiſe of the Fear* --- *i. e.* The fearful Noiſe of their Dwellings rending to pieces: But flying from this, they ſhall *Fall into the Pit.* --- *i. e.* The gaping Caverns of the Earth opening round about them: and thoſe who eſcape from theſe ſhall be *taken in the Snare* --- *i. e.* Such an inextricable one as we have deſcribed in Pſal. xi. 6. *Upon the Wicked He ſhall rain Snares, Fire and Brimſtone, and an horrible Tempeſt: This ſhall be the Portion of their Cup.* The nature of this frightfull Noiſe, with the Pit and Snare, is therefore plainly pointed at in the words immediately following, wherein the Two general Cauſes are thus aſſigned --- *For the Windows from on high are opened,* * *and the Foundations of the Earth do ſhake.*

Of the ſame dreadful Time we alſo read in Rev. XVI. 15. --- *e* † *Behold I come as as a Thief: Bleſſed is He that Watcheth* --- *And there were Voices and Thunders & Lightnings, and there was a great Earthquake, ſuch as was not ſince Men were upon the Earth, ſo mighty an Earthquake and ſo great: And the great City was divided into three Parts, and the Cities of the Nations fell: and great Babylon came into Remembrance before God, to give unto Her the Cup of the Wine of the Fierceneſs of his Wrath: And ev'ry Iſland fled away: and the Mountains were not found; and there fell upon Men a great Hail out of Heaven,* &c.

* A plain Alluſion to the Lord's Raining down Fire and Brimſtone out of Heaven on Sodom; and agrees with the miſerable Daſolation of the Earth by Fire, which we have deſcribed in the 4th, 5th & 6th Verſes of the ſame Chapter.

† So *Rev.* VI. 12. —— *e.* VIII 5. & XI. 13. —— *e.*

At the End of this preſent State of the World, will be ſuch a univerſal ſudden and deſtroying Earthquake. But till that amazing time comes on, our Bleſſed Saviour tells us; *There ſhall be Famines, Peſtilences, Troubles, Great Earthquakes in diverſe Places, and fearful Sights and great Signs from Heaven: That theſe are the Beginning of Sorrows, and the Signs of his Coming, and of the End of the World* ||.

They are theſe Particular Earthquakes that we are now conſidering: of which there have been great Numbers of tremendous Inſtances in theſe latter Ages, and in which there has been a very great Variety.

They ſometimes come upon ſome threatning and foreboding Symptoms; But for the moſt part at once, without the leaſt Intimation or Suſpicion. Sometimes in dreadful Tempeſts; but oftener in the calmeſt and ſereneſt Seaſons. They are ſometimes of a narrower, at others of a larger Compaſs. Sometimes their Shocks are of a ſhorter, at others of a longer Duration: Some are of a leſſer, others of a greater Violence: Sometimes they quickly ceaſe and leave the Earth at Reſt; at other times they ſoon repeat their terrible Efforts, and throw the Earth into new Convulſions.

Sometimes they make the Earth to jarr & vibrate, and ſometimes to waver like the Waves of the Sea. In ſuch a manner *was the Place ſhaken* where the *Apoſtles* aſſembled. *Acts* 4. 31. And thus *the Foundations of the Priſon* where *Paul* & *Silas* lay bound, *were ſhaken* by the *Great & ſudden Earthquake*, in *Acts* 16. 26. The Original Words in both thoſe Places ſignify, to fluctuate like the Waves of the Ocean, or to reel, or riſe and lower like the Ships upon them. (z)

|| *Mat.* XXIV. 3,--8 *Mar.* XIII. 4,--8. *Luk.* XXI. 7---11.
(z) *Zanch. Ben. &c.* in *Leigh* Crit. Sac.

Some

Sometimes they alter the Channels of the Seas themſelves, and fill up the moſt commodious Harbours. Sometimes they throw down Houſes or roll the Mountains upon them, and bury their Inhabitants under their Ruins: and thus their Beds are made their Graves, and their Dwellings turned into Tombs to cover them. Sometimes they open the Ground, and ſwallow up whole Streets & Cities into the Depths of the Earth in a moment: The Parents and their Children go down alive & ſhrieking, with all their Subſtance into the Pit together: They are covered up for ever: And either the Earth cloſes over them, or the guſhing Floods of Waters in a moment overwhelm & drown them, and leave no ſign of the Places were they have lived & ſinned together.

Sometimes with the opening Earth there iſſues out a firy ſtream of Brimſtone, that runs with an amazing Swiftneſs, devours every thing before it, and that none can eſcape. And ſometimes they blow forth mineral and malignant Streams that deſtroy the People round about with raging Peſtilence. Thus it was with *Korah* and his guilty Company. Numb. xvi. 31 --- 35. * *The Ground clave aſunder that was under them, and the Earth opened her mouth & ſwallow'd them up, & their Houſes, and all the Men that appertained to Korah, & all their Goods: They & all that appertained to them, went down alive into the Pit, and the Earth cloſed upon them, and they periſhed from among the Congregation. And all* Iſrael *that were round about them, fled at the Cry of them: for they ſaid, Leaſt the Earth ſwallow us up alſo: And there came out a Fire from the Lord, and conſumed* Two Hundred and Fifty more that were chief in the Wickedneſs. And with this dreadful Eruption there immediately follow'd a *Plague*, that quickly deſtroy'd near Fifteen Thouſand People.

* *Numb.* XXVI. 10. *Pſal.* CVI. 17, 18.

And

And now, surely I need not describe the Surprize, the Anguish and Horror that seizes and distresses our Minds, when we are feeling our Houses rocking over our Heads and straining every Joint, and the Foundations of the Earth a moving under our Feet. *When the Centurion and they that were with him saw the Earthquake* at the Crucifixion of Christ, *They Feared greatly* †. And of the Terror of such an awful Event we read, 1 Sam. xiv. 15. *And there was Trembling in the Host, in the Field, and among all the People: The Garrison and the Spoilers they also trembled, and the Earth Quaked: So it was a very great Trembling*; or *a Trembling of GOD*, as it is in the Hebrew.

We have oftentimes heard of such things at a Distance; and it's likely with a slighty Resentment, as remote or foreign Events that did not much concern or threaten us. But now we have known by Experience, something of the Dreadfulness of them.

While our *Curtains* like those of the Land of *Midian* were trembling ‡ --- Fear came upon us and Trembling also, which made the multitudes of our Bones to shake. Our Hearts were sore pained within us, and the Terrors of Death were fallen upon us. Fearfulness and Trembling seized us, and Horrour overwhelmed and cover'd us: And we were ready to fly as they fled from the Earthquake in the Days of *Uzziah*: || Or to wish --- O that we had Wings like a Dove, that we might fly away and be safe from Destruction! Did we not see every one with their Hands on their Loyns, as a Woman in Travel, and all Faces turn'd into Paleness? *Alas! For* that Night! it was Great, so that none was like it! It was even the Time of *Jacob's* Trouble: Tho' we are saved out of it. Even when we remember, we are still afraid, and Trembling takes hold on our Flesh.

† *Matth.* XXVIII. 54. ‡ *Hab.* III. 7. || *Zech.* XIV. 5.

And thus much of the general Appearance, Effects and Attendants of this awful Event.

We go on to consider,

II. *SOMETHING of the Natural, Instrumental or Secondary Causes of it.*

And here I shall be as brief as possible, least I keep you too long from the view of the *First and Principal Cause* in these great Affairs: who for ever has all created Things in his Hands, and always Acts on them in the wisest manner to fulfil his Designs. Nor shou'd I treat of these natural Causes, were we not to consider them as the very Works or Operations of God, and the Means he uses to accomplish his Pleasure. With a reverend Mind, and not a mere natural but divine Philosophy, let us search a little into them, and see --- How the mighty God invisibly works by sensible Causes, and even by those that are extreamly little and weak, produces the greatest and most terrible Effects in the World.

And here, I shall intirely omit the many fine but uncertain *Hypotheses* of the projecting Sort of Philosophers both ancient (s) and modern; such as of a central *Concave of Fire*, a vast internal *Abyss of Waters*, &c. I shall only take notice of *those Natural Causes, whose Operations are known to us all*, and conceived with Ease when applied to these Matters.

And I must in the first place observe, That in the very Constitution and Frame of this Earth, God has created and form'd it in such a particular manner as to prepare and dispose it for such fearful Convulsions.

He has not only made it of a very loose Contexture, thro' which the Air and Water and other subtil Materials can easily penetrate: But He has also formed it with a vast and inconceivable number of *Caverns* or

(s) See a large Collection of the ancient Opinions in SENACÆ Quest. Nat.

hollow

hollow Places within: (v) and in every Part He has either primarily lodged, or by the conſtant Circulation of Air and Water conveyed, great multitudes of *Sulphurious, nitrous, fiery* and *mineral Particles*; ſuch as thoſe in the Clouds, which are the natural Cauſes of Thunder and Lightning.

Now when theſe are put into Motion and ſtrike againſt one another; we know with what amazing Violence they fly off from each other, as we ſee in our *Aurum Fulminans* and common *Gun-Powder*. So prodigious is their Expanſion, that it is computed a Collection of them ſet on Fire, will in a moment ſpread ſo wide, as to poſſeſs above a *Million Times* the ſpace they did before, while they lay in the Form of a compacted Body. They will firſt make their way into the eaſieſt Paſſages; and if they have not a ſpeedy Vent, agreable to their expanſive and united Power, they will tare and rend away all before them.

And thus theſe diminutive Cauſes meeting and acting in a ſuitable Quantity, whether in the Air or Water of the hollow Vaults and empty Spaces below; they fly off from each other with the greateſt Violence. They firſtly iſſue or puſh every Vapour before them into the neighbouring Caverns: But ſtill wanting Room, and eſpecially if the Perſpirations or Pores of the Earth are ſtopt either by Froſt or Rains, whereby they cannot get thro' ſoon enough; they heave and raiſe the Earth, till they force their way into the Air above.

(v) Vid VAREN Geog. And the Obſerver has Himſelf been in many of theſe Caverns in England: Some of them croſſing their Mines about 300 Foot below the Surface of the Earth: And others opening at the Bottom of Mountains & running deep under their Roots for a 1000 Yards in Extent; out of which others have branched into unknown and inacceſſible Diſtances. So that in accounting for theſe natural Cauſes, He goes no further than He has ſeen with his Eyes.

Nor

Nor is this a Twentieth Part of our imminent Danger: There is a terrible *Atmoſphere* over us, which few are aware of, that is found to preſs with the Weight of above *Two Thouſand Pounds* * on every *ſquare Foot* of the Surface of the Earth. And when by the violent Exploſions made from beneath, the Vapours within are on a ſudden diſcharg'd and leave a Vacuity; then this aſtoniſhing Weight, beſides that of the Earth, immediately bares away every thing before it into the Spaces below, and ſinks whole Cities & Mountains at once. Yea, tho' there ſhou'd be an Eruption thro' an eaſier Paſſage in any Part of the Land or Water about us, a great many Miles off; Yet Here, a whole Town being over ſuch an emptied Cavern, it may ſink in a moment: and even this without perceiving ſo much of the Shake of the Earth, as the Places nearer and round the Eruption.

Thus has the moſt High God, in the very Compoſition and Frame of this Earth, and by the Courſe and Laws whereby He governs all Nature, made ſufficient Proviſion for ſuch dire Convulſions. Thus He has placed us over great and hideous *Vaults*, large enough to receive the moſt ſpacious Cities, and ready to open when He ſees it time to bury us in them: And there He lays his terrible *Mines*, to ſpring them at his ſovereign Pleaſure. And by ſuch little weak Things, He cauſes great and marvellous Alterations in this lower World, and executes his moſt righteous Judgments.

I wou'd therefore proceed in the

III. and laſt place, *TO lead you up to GOD, as having the higheſt & principal Agency in this ſtupendeous Work.*

How exceeding apt are we to terminate our views and reſt in ſecond Cauſes; and look on them as certain fatal Things that move and act of themſelves, and without Deſign or Reaſon. But this our Proſpect

* Mr. *Boyl* found it to be 2592 Pounds.

is exceeding narrow, ſhallow, ſhort & partial. And our Conceptions riſing from it, are not only utterly wrong and contrary to the Truth of things, but are alſo oppoſite to the Being of Providence and the Nature of the Divine Perfections.

For this is to ſuppoſe, That when God had formed *material* Subſtances, He only made ſome *general Impreſſions* on them for general Ends, and then left them to Act according to thoſe Impreſſions, without continuing his active or directive Influence on them: which is to make theſe material things now independent on Him in all their continued Actings, and is utterly inconſiſtent with his continual Providence. Or if He continues his Influence for thoſe general Ends, that yet the moſt Wiſe God neither had nor has any particular View to all the Effects they were to produce in the World: which is intirely repugnant to his perfect Wiſdom.

From the Operations of theſe natural *Agents*, we muſt therefore raiſe our Minds to their moſt wiſe Creator. We muſt look on *them* as his Workmanſhip, and upon Him as making and moving them in perfect Wiſdom, and as having in View every Effect they were to produce when firſt He formed them and ſet them a moving. His all-wiſe and all-ſeeing Proſpect muſt have taken and adjuſted every Cauſe and Effect in the moſt beautiful Place in the Scheam of his Providence. Having therefore moſt wiſely laid the univerſal Train in his Mind; He creates a vaſt Variety of Things as Means in which He pleaſes to Work, in the fitteſt Times & Places to fulfil his Deſigns. And having made his Inſtruments, He continually takes an effectual Care to impower and guide them to attain his Ends.

But however it is as to created ſpiritual and intellectual Agents; we know that merely *material* Subſtances can only move in the Circuits of Nature as they are moved by Him. We ſee they always and every where move and act in a moſt curious and regular manner with reſpect to each other, as if they perfectly

ſectly knew each other's particular Circumſtances, and were the moſt intelligent Agents. But they are uncapable of knowing the wonderful Laws by which they are Governed. They are therefore conſtantly Guided by the Wiſdom and Power of Him that made them: He muſt continually hold them in his immediate Hands, and both impower and direct them in all their Actions. And what we call the *Laws of Nature*, are only the uſual Methods in which He is pleaſed to Work in the World; and from which He ſees not cauſe to depart, but in ſome extraordinary Caſes where his uſual manner of working cannot reach his Deſigns.

And in a particular manner --- To what elſe can we in Reaſon aſſign that admirable Force and Action of thoſe peculiar Subſtances that are the Cauſes of Earthquakes in *their violent flying off from each other*, but to the immediate Influence and Action of God? Thoſe merely material, exceeding ſmall and ſenſeleſs Atoms, that lie intirely dead and unactive, are no ſooner diſingag'd from each other; but ſuch an amazing Force is in a moment inſpir'd into them from ſome other Agent, as to ſet the largeſt Countries of the Earth a Trembling with all their Mountains & Cities upon them, and to heave them up and rend them to Pieces.

If you were to ſee Two *mountainous Rocks* to lie perfectly ſtill while they touched each other; but being by ſome Means removed to a ſmall and particular Diſtance, then of themſelves to fly off from each other with the greateſt Violence --- wou'd you not aſcribe it readily to ſome mighty and inviſible Agent that with ſuch a wonderful Force ſhou'd beat them away? Why, The ſmalleſt Atoms of Matter are of themſelves as Dead and unable to fly off from each other as the greateſt Rocks in the World.

And what mighty and inviſible Agent ſhou'd this be but God? Theſe diminutive Subſtances are ever diſperſed all over the Earth, the Air and Seas: They riſe with the fineſt Vapour into the cloudy Regions:

They diſtill in every Shower: They peirce into ev'ry Vacancy of the Earth below: They mingle with every Subſtance: And when their collected Parts are diſ-join'd and remov'd to ſuch particular Diſtances, they are always in a moment impres'd with the ſame aſtoniſhing Force and Violence, tho' they were abſolutely ſtill before. That mighty and inviſible Cauſe which moves them is every where alwaysPreſent, attending theſe numberleſs and moſt minute materials, and moving them all in the moſt regular and intelligent manner. He moves them only at ſuch a determinate Diſtance, with ſuch a uniform meaſure of Force and Activity, and to ſuch a Degree of Expanſion; and then having performed his Work, and gained his End, He drives them no further.

And who can this all-preſent, all-wiſe, all-powerfull and all-vigilant Being be, but the moſt Glorious GOD? It is He that holds all Nature in his ſovereign Hands, and continually rules it in perfect Wiſdom. It is He that Acts on theſe things He has made for ſuch wonderful Ends, and that guides and imploys them as Means to produce ſuch dreadful Concuſſions as Earthquakes in this World below.

So *Job* that Diwine Philoſpher, diſcovers & owns of the Inviſible God, in Chap. ix.4, &c. *He is wiſe in Heart & mighty in Strength --- which removeth the Mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his Anger: which ſhaketh the Earth out of her Place, and the Pillars thereof tremble.*

So King *David* in Pſal. lx.2, 3. *Thou haſt made the Earth to tremble, Thou haſt broken it: Heal the Breaches thereof, for it ſhaketh: Thou haſt ſhewed thy People hard things, Thou haſt made them to drink the Wine of Aſtoniſhment.* And agreable to this are thoſe lofty Expreſſions in Pſal. civ.32. *He looketh on the Earth, and it trembleth: He toucheth the Hills and they ſmoke.*

And thus we ſee the Great God has the chiefeſt Agency in theſe wonderous Works. Let us apply ourſelves now to Improve this Doctrine.

And here,

1. *IN theſe affrightful Shakings of the Earth we ſee the dreadful Majeſty of the Glorious GOD.*

What more awful or lively Inſtance can there be of this, than to ſee the Earth & Mountains trembling at his Preſence? Thus the ancient Sinai did; of which it is ſaid, That *Becauſe the Lord deſcended* on it, *the whole Mountain quaked greatly.* * And when He went out of *Scir*, when He marched out of the Field of *Edom*; *The Earth trembled from before the God of Iſrael*, † *The Earth ſhook at the Preſence of GOD, even Sinai it ſelf moved at the Preſence of the God of* Israel. ‡

With God is moſt terrible Majeſty: And when He has a mind to ſhow it, He can eaſily and in a moment do it in ſuch an aſtoniſhing manner as to affright the hardieſt Creature. He can put all Nature, even the Great & inanimate Parts of the World into ſuch a Commotion, as to make us ſee in a moſt ſenſible manner, the terrifying Actings of his Powerful Preſence, and excite the higheſt and moſt awful Reverence of Him. He can make the heavy & dull Earth to tremble, as if it felt the Force of thoſe awakened Paſſions that ſhou'd riſe in our Minds at the Appearance of God, and as if it were mov'd with the Fear of it's preſent Deſtruction. The Everlaſting Mountains are ſcattered, and the perpetual Hills bow down before Him. ||

2. *WHO will not then fear & tremble before this Great & dreadful Being?*

He that can ſhake the Earth out of Her Place in a moment without any Inſtruments; for He needs them not, nor is confined to them. Or if He ſees fit to uſe them, He has always a ſufficiency of them at Hand to imploy as He pleaſes. He can improve

* *Exo.* XIX 18. † *Judg.* V. 4, 5. ‡ *Pſ.* LXVII 7, 8. || *Hab.* III. 6.

the

the minuteſt of Atoms to ſhatter the Earth: And when He is exerting his Power upon them in the inviſible Caverns below; who can tell *how far* He may do it in a greater meaſure, to the ſpeedy & utter Deſtruction of thoſe that neither fear or regard Him? He that exerts ſuch a Degree of Power as He does in and by them, may as eaſily put forth a Million times Greater, and in a moment blow up the Earth, with all things on it, and diſperſe it into a Vapour.

HEAR now this O fooliſh People and without Underſtanding! which have Eyes and ſee not; which have Ears & hear not! Fear ye not me, ſaith the Lord? will ye not tremble at my Preſence? *. It is the utmoſt Degree of Stupidity, to be fearleſs of Him; and a moſt provoking Offence to his infinite Majeſty. Such fool-hardy Sinners He therefore admoniſhes in thoſe awful Terms. † *Now, Conſider this Ye that forget God! leaſt I tare you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.*

LET us then have a Care of Returning to our former Security: And let us bare in our Minds a lively Senſe of our continual Danger. Let our Fleſh ſtill tremble for Fear of GOD; and let us be ever afraid of His Judgments. Let us ſtand in the greateſt aw of this moſt Glorious Being, and not Sin againſt Him. He is always Preſent, and the ſame Holy, Mighty and Terrible, as He appears to be in the moſt hideous Earthquake.

LIKE the aſtoniſhed *Saul*, while he *trembled* and fell down to the Earth: Let us now earneſtly cry---- *Lord what wilſt Thou have me to Do* ‡ Or as the awakened *Jailour*, at *the great & ſudden Earthquake* wherein the Foundations of his Priſon at *Philippi* were ſhaken; came in *Trembling* and fell down before the Apoſtles and cried --- *Sirs, What muſt I do to be ſaved?* || In the affecting Remembrance of this awful Providence and in the lively view of our

* *Jer.* V. 21, 22. † *Pſal.* L. 22. ‡ *Acts* IX. 4—6.
|| *Acts* XVI 26---30.

continual

continual Danger; Let us conſtantly adore and mention the dreadful Name of GOD with Reverence: and as the Apoſtle exhorted thoſe *Philippians*, Work out our Salvation with Fear and Trembling. * *When* Ephraim *ſpake trembling, He exalted Himſelf in* Iſrael; *But when He offended in* Baal, *He Died.* †

But alas! The moſt frightful Appearances will ſignify nothing to bring us to a due Awe of the Glorious God, unleſs His Spirit ſhall attend and ſpeak in a ſenſible manner. 1 Kings xix. 11, ---- 13. *And behold the* Lord *paſſed by, and a great & ſtrong* Wind *rent the Mountains, and break in pieces the Rocks before the* Lord; *but the* Lord *was not in the Wind*: *And after the Wind an* Earthquake; *but the* Lord *was not in the Earthquake*: *And after the Earthquake a* Fire; *but the* Lord *was not in the Fire*: *And after the Fire a* Still small Voice: *And it was ſo*; *when* Elijah *heard that,* Then *he wrapt his Face in his Mantle*, &c. With theſe terrible Works, Let us earneſtly look and pray for the Holy Spirit to follow and ſpeak in an effectual manner: And that He may be Poured out as He was when the *Place was ſhaken* where the Primitive Chriſtians aſſembled, *Acts* iv. 31.

3. *HEREIN we alſo clearly ſee the utter Uncertainty & Inſufficiency of every thing on the Earth.*

We ſee how they all continually ſtand on dangerous and uncertain Ground. Their very Foundations may fail in a moment. In an Hour we think not of, they may ſink down with us, who have placed all our Affection and Dependance on them; Go down together into the Gulphs below, and be buried up together, till the Heavens be no more.

And alas! How empty and vain did they look in *That Night*; while we were ſhivering with them over

* *Phil.* II. 12. † *Hoſ.* XIII. 1.

the

the Pit, and in equal Hazard of being cruſhed to pieces? cou'd they yield us then any Support or Solace? Did they then appear to be Precious? Or cou'd we find any Comfort in our having Purſued them with ſo much Eagerneſs, and valued them more than the Favour of God and an Intereſt in Him.

Alas! We then clearly ſaw the Vanity of theſe Earthly Things; we ſaw thro' their deceitful Appearance; and then we alſo underſtood our Deluſions. O! That now having gained ſuch a Sight and Diſcovery, we might never loſe it again; nor ſo highly value, nor ſo earneſtly ſeek, nor ſo ſecurely rely on theſe doubtful things, that may ſo ſuddenly fail us, and leave nothing to comfort us in the laſt Extremity.

4. *HERE likewiſe we ſee the great Folly and Miſery of thoſe that live unprepared for ſuch a fearful Hour.*

We have in ſome meaſure ſeen with Aſtoniſhment how unexpectedly ſuch a moment may come: and we know not how ſoon we may be ſurprized with another, and ten times more terrible. Even while we are ſecurely Sleeping, as many were then, we may be rouzed up in an Inſtant to ſee all things diſſolving about us, or feel our ſelves deſcending into the Depths Below. But O the Diſmay and Confuſion that will then ſeize the Soul unprepared for ſuch a diſmal Scene.

Then the moſt High, whom you have continually ſlighted, will take his turn to deſpiſe and neglect you. "Becauſe He had called, and you had refuſed; He had ſtretched out his hand, and you regarded him not, but ſet at nought all his Counſel and wou'd none of his Reproof: He will laugh at your Calamity and mock when your Fear comes; when your Fear comes as Deſolation, and your Deſtruction comes as a Whirlwind; when Diſtreſs and Anguiſh comes on you. Then ſhall you call on him, but He will not anſwer: you ſhall ſeek him earneſtly, but you ſhall not find him. *Prov.* 1. 24,---28.

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AND O vile and guilty Earth! The Time is approaching, when the glorious GOD ſhall appear to ſearch out and diſcloſe thy Wickedneſs, and to ſhake it out of Thee in the Day of his Anger. *Tremble Thou Earth at the Preſence of GOD!* For "a Fire ſhall go before him, and ſhall burn up "his Enemies round about: His Lightenings ſhall "enlighten the World: And the Earth ſhall ſee "and tremble: The Hills ſhall melt like wax at "his Preſence, at the Preſence of the LORD of the "whole Earth: The Heavens ſhall declare his Righ-"teouſneſs, and all the People ſhall ſee his Glory. * In vain then ſhall the Wicked "go into the Clefts "of the Rocks, and into the Tops of the ragged "Rocks, for Fear of the LORD, and for the Glory "of his Majeſty, when He ariſes to ſhake terribly the "Earth. † But "*Zion* ſhall hear and be Glad, "and the Daughters of *Judah* Rejoice, becauſe "of his Judgments ‡.

5. and Laſtly, *HOW exceeding ſafe and happy are they who have the mighty GOD for their Friend and Redeemer?*

THEY that have received HIS SON, forſaken their Sins, and obeyed his Goſpel. Their Offences againſt Him are Pardoned: He is become their conſtant Friend: He has engaged to be ſo by an Everlaſting Covenant, that ſhall never be broken. In his Almighty Hands and under his Eye, they are always ſecure: And they need "not Fear, tho' the Earth "be removed, and tho' the Mountains be carried in-"to the midſt of the Sea, tho' the Waters thereof "roar and be troubled, tho' the Mountains ſhake "with the ſwelling thereof: The LORD of Hoſts is "with them, The GOD of Jacob will be their "Strength and Refuge, and a preſent Help in their "Trouble. *Pſal.* XLVII. 1, --- 7.

* *Pſal* XCVII. 3 —7. † *Iſa* II. 20. 21 *Rev* VI. 12, . . e.
‡ *Pſal.* XCVII. 8.

SUCH as theſe, our Bleſſed SAVIOUR rather exhorts to rejoice, even in the midſt of thoſe Tumults and Confuſions of Nature that ſhall uſher Him into theſe viſible Heavens. Luk. XXI. 25---28. *And there ſhall be Signs in the Sun and in the Moon, and in the Stars; and upon the Earth Diſtreſs of Nations, with Perplexity, the Sea and the Waves roaring; Mens Hearts failing them for Fear, and for looking after thoſe things which are coming on the Earth: For the Powers of Heaven ſhall be ſhaken: And then ſhall they ſee the Son of Man coming in a Cloud with Power and great Glory. And when theſe things begin to come to paſs;* THEN LOOK UP AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS; *For your Redemption draws near.*

I ſhall CONCLUDE with thoſe Words which are ſpoken of that Great and terrible Day, in Joel III. 14,---16. *Multitudes, Multitudes in the Valley of Deciſion; For the Day of the* LORD *is near, in the Valley of Deciſion. The Sun and the Moon ſhall be darkened, and the Stars ſhall withdraw their ſhining: The* LORD *alſo ſhall roar out of* Zion, *and utter his Voice from* Jeruſalem: *And the Heavens and the Earth ſhall ſhake:* BUT THE LORD WILL BE THE HOPE OF HIS PEOPLE, AND THE STRENGTH OF THE CHILDREN OF Iſrael.

The END of the Firſt *SERMON.*

SER-

SERMON II.

Thurſday Afternoon, *Nov.* 9.

PSALM XVIII. 7.

THEN the Earth ſhook and trembled; the Foundations alſo of the Hills moved, and were ſhaken, becauſe He was Wroth.

HAVING ſpoke to theſe Words on a late *ſolemn Occaſion*; But not having Time to treat of many important Heads they ſuggeſt, nor to make ſuch an Improvement as ſo awful a Subject requires; I ſhall now proceed to the further Conſideration of them.

AND ſurely ſuch an *extraordinary Providence* as has been the Occaſion of ſuch Meditations, will juſtify our perſiſting in them, and our further Indeavours to preſerve and improve thoſe hopeful Convictions it ſeems to have produced among us. Nor can ſuch a Diſcourſe be in any meaſure unſuitable to the *preſent Solemnity*; when it becomes us to Sing both of Judgment and Mercy, to rejoice with Trembling, and this Day is a witneſs of our Great Deliverance. What is there that has a ſtronger Tendency to excite our Gratitude to Him that has given it, than a lively Reflection on the eminent Danger we have but juſt eſcaped, and by whoſe Great Mercy at that Conjuncture it is, that we are now taſting the ſweetneſs of every Comfort?

LET us therefore ſtill look back both with an affectionate Awe & Thankfulneſs on that diſmal Night; when *The Earth ſhook & trembled, the Foundations of the Hills mov'd and were ſhaken,*

Becauſe He was Wroth: And yet in the midſt of his Wrath He remembred and made known his Mercy; He ſpar'd and ſav'd us, that we and our Families might come to this joyful Time and Unite in his Praiſes.

But you may remember our

2. Obs. was, *THAT the Great GOD does this terrible Work, Becauſe He is Wroth, and thereby He expreſſes his fearful Diſpleaſure.*

And for the Illuſtration of it, I ſhall endeavour theſe two Things ---

1. To ſhow that God does this terrible Work, Becauſe He is Wroth, and thereby He expreſſes his fearful Diſpleaſure.
2. Consider the Motives of this Divine Diſpleaſure and theſe dreadful Expreſſions and Diſcoveries of it.

I. *TO ſhow that the Great GOD does this terrible Work, Becauſe He is Wroth, and thereby He expreſſes his fearful Diſpleaſure.*

Under the former Head we have very clearly diſcovered, it is the Great GOD Himſelf that Acts tho' in the way of natural Cauſes, in this aſtoniſhing Work: And when we feel the Earth to tremble, we muſt needs conceive it is the mighty Power of God that ſo terribly ſhakes and ſets it a moving. In this reſpect He Acts as a *Phyſical* Cauſe: But we are now to conſider Him as a *Moral* or *Political* Agent in this tremendous Action: As one that has to do with Rational and Senſible Creatures, who are capable Subjects of Suffering in theſe Affairs, and who are under his wiſe and righteous Government.

He is a Being of perfect Intelligence, Wiſdom and Juſtice and therefore He muſt needs have a wiſe and righteous Reaſon or Motive for all his Actions; and to be ſure for acting in ſuch a terrible manner.

And

And no doubt, One great End or Motive muſt be the ſame with others of his wondrous Works; *viz. To ſhow his glorious Power, Being & Preſence, and to excite the Sons of Men to admire and honour Him.* For theſe great Operations of Providence having a juſt and natural Tendency to produce ſuch proper Conceptions & Excitements in us; they muſt needs be ſome of His Ends and Motives in them.

And for the ſame Reaſon, as they have ſuch a Tendency, *to raiſe in our Minds the awful Conceptions of his Juſtice, Holineſs and Divine Diſpleaſure, and to excite our Fears of his righteous and deſtroying Judgments*; theſe muſt be alſo ſome of his Motives in theſe dreadful Works.

God is in Himſelf inviſible: But as He clearly reveals his Being and Nature, ſo alſo his Mind and Divine Diſpoſitions by what He does in the World. In his Works of this lower *Creation* He abundantly ſhows both his *Kindneſs* and *Anger* to his Intelligent Creatures. All the Good things in it muſt flow from his Kindneſs, and are the Evidence of it: And all the Evils muſt proceed from his Anger, and ſufficiently teſtify it to the Sons of Men. And in the Works of *Providence* --- Preſervations, Supplies & Proſperities muſt be the genuine Fruits & Signs of his great *Benignity*; And Deſtructions, Calamities and affrightful Dangers muſt needs be the moral Effects & Diſcoveries of his righteous and holy *Diſpleaſure*.

It is indeed very difficult for us to conceive aright of *Wrath or Anger* in God: Becauſe in our Conceptions thereof we are apt to mingle thoſe painful Sentiments we feel in our ſelves in our angry Paſſions. But theſe can never ariſe in the Mind of that Glorious Being to interrupt his Bleſſedneſs. His Wrath is only a juſt Reſentment of his Creatures Contempt, Oppoſition and Enmity to Him, with a juſt Inclination to Honour Himſelf in inflicting a righteous Puniſhment. And when Anger, Wrath and Fury are aſcribed to

God

GOD ----they only expreſs ſo many various Degrees of Offence in the Creatures, with his anſwerable Reſentments, and Inclinations to puniſh them in a ſuitable manner.

BY *terrible Works* the Righteous GOD then effectually ſhows his *juſt Diſpleaſure*. And this not only by inflicting real Calamities, but alſo by giving the uſual & frightful Signs or Appearances of their coming upon us. For by his Works He may threaten as well as his Word: And thoſe Works of his which bring us into the greateſt Dangers, are the moſt awful Threatnings. And in Proportion to the Greatneſs of the Evils either inflicted or threatned muſt his Diſpleaſure appear: tho' there may be a far higher Reſentment remaining ſtill in his Mind, in Proportion to his Creatures provoking Offences, which He has not diſcovered.

BUT of all Temporal Judgments, what is more terrible than a ſudden and deſtroying EARTHQUAKE? Famines, Plagues, and Wars are waſting and dreadful Calamities. But theſe deſtroy in a gradual manner, and give the Inhabitants time to eſcape or prepare to meet them. But an Earthquake comes on a ſudden, and frequently does it's deſtructive Work in a moment, and there is no reſiſting or flying away.

AND now --- who can think any other, than as this Great and Almighty BEING is then ſhaking the Earth, and making the Foundations of it to tremble; ſo He acts and appears in ſuch a fearful manner, Becauſe He is Wroth? If this be not a certain Effect and Appearance of his Divine Diſpleaſure; then the moſt Righteous GOD may terrify and threaten his Creatures in the ſevereſt Degree with the Proſpect of immediate Ruin, and yet not be offended. And if ſuch ruinous Judgments as they frequently prove, are not the Expreſſions and Effects of his Wrath; then He may deſtroy the whole Earth, as well as a ſingle Town, in a moment, in the moſt tremendous manner, without being Angry; And the Holy Angels who look on and behold the aſtoniſhing Work, will have no Reaſon to Glorify Him for his Righteous Judgments.

AND

AND *in ſuch a diſmal Hour*, while the Earth is Quivering under us---Does not every one rightly conceive, they feel the Glorious GOD then ſhaking it with his amazing Power? Does not every Mind look up and clearly ſee Him offended in an high Degree, and apprehend Him ready to expreſs his Wrath in their immediate and utter Deſtruction? Does not every Conſcience then juſtly reflect on it's undeniable Guilt in the Eyes of that Glorious BEING, whereby they have highly provoked Him thus to threaten and in a moment deſtroy them? Does not every Soul then confeſs and bewail it's Offences as the provoking Cauſe, and earneſtly Cry for the preſent Removal of his inſupportable Frowns and for the contrary and immediate Appearance of his infinite Mercy?

ARE not theſe the common and juſt Apprehenſions of the Children of Men both religious & impious, in the Times of this tremendous Providence?

AND how agreable to them are the plain Expreſſions of DIVINE REVELATION?

So *Job* diſcerns and declares of GOD in that forementioned Chap. IX. *v.* 4, 5. *He is wiſe in Heart & mighty in Strength: who has hardened Himſelf againſt Him and proſpered? which removeth the Mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his Anger*, &c. And in Chap. XXVI. *v.* 11. *The Pillars of Heaven tremble, and are aſtoniſhed at his Reproof.*

AND how agreable to this is that ſublime Repreſentation of GOD in the Beginning and Progreſs of theſe and ſuch like Divine Operations, Hab. III. 10,---12. *The Mountains ſaw Thee, and they Trembled---Thou didſt march thro' the Land in Indignation.*

THUS we read a moſt terrifying Threatning of this particular Judgment, as a declared Expreſſion of the Anger of GOD, Ezek. XXXVIII. 19, 20. *For in my Jealouſy, and in the Fire of my Wrath have I ſpoken: Surely in that Day ſhall be a Great ſhaking in the Land of* Iſrael: *So that the Fiſhes of the Sea, and the Fowls*

Fowls of the Heaven, and the Beasts of the Field, and all creeping Things that creep on the Earth, and all the Men that are on the Face of the Earth, shall shake at my Presence: And the Mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep Places shall fall, and every Wall shall fall to the Ground, &c.

And thus the amazed Prophet gives us a most lively Description of the like terrible Judgment, as if He had seen it in the full Execution; and then ascribes it to the Divine Displeasure, Jer. xxiv 24,--- 26. *I beheld the Mountains, and lo they trembled, and all the Hills moved lightly: I beheld, and lo there was no Man, and all the Birds of the Heaven were fled: I beheld, and lo the fruitful Place was a Wilderness, and all the Cities thereof were broken down, at the Presence of the* Lord, *and at his Fierce Anger.*

And thus have we briefly shown, That the Great God does this terrible Work, Because He is Wroth, and thereby He expresses his fearful Displeasure.

We now go on ---

II. *To Consider the Motives of this Divine Displeasure, and of these dreadful Expressions and Discoveries of it.*

What shou'd be the meaning of this Heat of his Anger? Wherefore shou'd He be so highly Offended? And what does He intimate by these awful Expressions of his holy Displeasure?

And here we must needs be sensible that *our heinous and multiplied Sins* are the unhappy Kindlers of his terrible Wrath. For every Sin is directly contrary to his Nature, Design and Will, as they appear in his Works, as well as his Word. It has a natural Tendency to deface the Beauty of his excellent Works, to pervert their Uses, to disturb their Order & Harmony; and so to prevent his Designs, to cloud the appearances of his Perfections in them, and Eclipse his Glory. It is a provoking Contempt and Opposition of his Law and Authority, an high Indignity offered to his glorious Sovereignty: And how exceeding Offensive must it be therefore to Him? especially when continued and persisted in by the contemptuous Creature.

Our

OUR *Iniquities* then, are the things that have so highly provoked Him to threaten us with such a speedy and ruinous Judgment. These dreadful Convulsions are his loud and angry Declarations against them. They are his awakening Warnings: And O how awfully have they been repeated among us? And surely their Design must be either first to Reform us; or if we wont be Reformed, then to ripen us for utter Destruction. And as they have justly mov'd Him to threaten; so then -- to perform his Threatnings, and punish us in the most terrible manner.

AND thus we find that *Disobedience* to GOD, and *Contempt of his Will* in the *General*, is by the Prophet assign'd as the moral Cause of his Anger and of this fearful Calamity. Jer. V. 24, 25. *Because they have cast away the Law of the* LORD *of Hosts, and despised the Word of the holy One of* Israel; *therefore is the Anger of the* LORD *kindled against this People, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them: And the Hills did tremble, and their Carcasses were torn in the midst of the Streets.*

AND as for *Particular Sins* which are exceeding Offensive to the Glorious GOD -- I might easily mention a great Variety -- such as the Love of the Earth and the Things of it above Him -- the Imposition of Humane Inventions in his sacred Worship -- the Profaning of his holy Name & Sabbaths -- Disobedience to Parents and those in Authority -- malicious Carriages towards our Neighbours -- Drunkenness, Whordom, Oppression, Cheating, Lying, Coveting, Pride, &c. And especially when these are attended with Apostacy, Hypocrisy, and perverse Continuance in them. When these grow rampant among any People, especially those who profess themselves to be His; they do greatly dishonour his Name, excite his Anger, and move Him sooner or later to show it in some terrible Judgment or other. And He may Choose *the Kinds* and *Times* He sees most fit for his Glorious Purposes.

BUT I shall here only mention those *Particular Sins* that seem to be threatned with this *Particular Punishment*. Now these are

1. *THE provoking Sins of Oppreſſion, Deſire of the World above GOD himſelf, Uneaſineſs with his holy Sabbaths, and Cheating & Extortion on others.*

COVETOUSNESS is the Root of theſe violent and miſchievous Evils: And I rank them thus together, Becauſe they are all thus numbered as the provoking Cauſes of this tremendous Judgment, Amos VIII. 4---8. *Hear this O ye that ſwallow the Needy, even to make the Poor of the Land to fail*: There's unmerciful Oppreſſion. *Saying, When will the New Moon be gone, that we may ſell Corn; and the Sabbath, that we may ſet forth Wheat?* There's Deſire of the World above GOD Himſelf, and Uneaſineſs with his ſacred Sabbaths, as they uſually go together. *Making the Ephah ſmall and the Shekel great, and falſifying the Ballances by Deceit*: There's abominable Cheating in Commerce. *That we may buy the Poor for Silver, and the Needy for a Pair of Shoes; yea and ſell the Refuſe of the Wheat*: There's vile Extortion on the Neceſſitous —— Theſe are the provoking Sins, and now comes on the direful Threatning —— *The* LORD *hath ſworn by the Excellency of Jacob; ſurely I will never forget any of their Works: Shall not the Land Tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwells therein? And it ſhall riſe up wholly as a Floud; and it ſhall be caſt out and drowned, as by the Floud of Ægypt.*

THAT the *Trembling of the Land*, and it's *Riſing up like a Floud*, or as the *Dutch* Tranſlation renders it --*Being driven to & fro like the Waves of the Sea*, ——That this intends a dreadful *Shake of the Earth*, ſeems very likely, not only from the extream agreement of the *Phraſes* to ſuch a ſort of Calamity; But alſo from the accurate Remark of the preciſe *Time* of the Delivery of this particular Threatning. For in Chap. I. *v.* 1. We read, It was *in the Days of* Uzziah *King of Judah, and two Years before the Earthquake.* Agreable to which we have alſo a Prediction of their haſty *Flight* from ſome terrible but nameleſs Calamity, in the latter End of the IId Chapter: And this we find exactly fulfilled, in Zech. XIV. 5. *As ye fled from before*

fore the Earthquake in the Days of Uzziah *King of Judah.*

But then,

2. *ANOTHER provoking Sin to GOD is* Pride; *for which He alſo threatens this diſtinguiſhing Puniſhment.*

Now this Vice conſiſts in an high Conceit of our ſelves, in undervaluing & contemning our Neighbours, in Envying their Honours, and exalting our ſelves againſt the Glorious God. And it expreſſes it ſelf in Boaſting of and Praiſing our Perſons or Actions; In extravagant Apparel, Building, Furniture, expenſive and pompous ways of Living; In haughty Carriage towards others, Reviling and Defaming them; In ſcorning to ſubmit to the Yoke of Religion, and riſing up in Anger againſt the Corrections of God.

There is therefore hardly any Sin deſcribed in Scripture as more offenſive to Him, or threatned with ſeverer Calamities. I ſhall only mention this particular Judgment, as 'tis repreſented in the moſt awful manner, in Iſa. II. 12, &c. *For the Day of the* Lord *of Hoſts ſhall be upon every one that is Proud & Lofty, and upon every one that is liſted up, and he ſhall be brought low --- and upon all the high Mountains, and upon all the Hills that are lifted up, and upon every high Tower, and upon every fenced Wall, and upon all the Ships of Tarſhiſh, and upon all pleaſant Pictures: And the Loftineſs of Man ſhall be bowed down, and the Haughtineſs of Men ſhall be made low: And the* Lord *alone ſhall be exalted in that Day, when He ariſes to ſhake terribly the Earth.*

This particular Threatning being likewiſe uttered in the Days of Uzziah King of *Judah*; it ſeems plainly to foretell, and in part to be fulfilled in the dreadful *Earthquake* which fell out in the ſame King's Reign, as we obſerved before: Tho' doubtleſs with a view to thoſe that were to follow in every Age; and at length that moſt finiſhing one which is to deſtroy the whole Earth.

And agreable to this is alſo that in Iſa. xiii. 9, &c. *Behold the Day of the* Lord *cometh, Cruel, both*

with Wrath & fierce Anger, to lay the Land deſolate, and He ſhall deſtroy the Sinners thereof out of it —— And I will puniſh the World for their Evil, and the Wicked for their Iniquity; And I will cauſe the Arrogancy of the Proud to ceaſe, and I will lay low the Haughtineſs of the Terrible: —— Therefore I will ſhake the Heaven, and the Earth ſhall remove out of her Place, in the Wrath of the LORD *of Hoſts, and in the Day of his fierce Anger: And it ſhall be as the chaced Roe, and as a Sheep that no Man taketh up.*

AND thus we ſee *what Particular Sins* are ſo provoking to GOD, as to move Him to threaten us with *this Particular Judgment*; and if they are not forſaken, to bring it in his Times on the Earth.

WE muſt now proceed to ſome further

IMPROVEMENT.

AND,

1. *IN theſe dreadful Works of GOD, Let us ſee the extream Evil & Danger of ſinning againſt Him.*

OUR Sins of every Kind are full of Contrariety and Diſhonour to this moſt Glorious BEING. And as they are juſtly moſt offenſive to HIM, they are alſo moſt dangerous & deſtructive to *Us*. They are ſo many Inſtances of our ſlighting his ſupream Authority, of abuſing his infinite Goodneſs, and of riſing in Oppoſition againſt Him. It is by theſe alone we raiſe his Anger; and by our Continuance in them, move Him to expreſs it, both in Threatning and Bringing on us his deſtroying Judgments. And O! who can ſtand before Him when once He appears to be Angry? For *The* LORD *is the true GOD, He is the living GOD, and an everlaſting King: At his Wrath the Earth ſhall* TREMBLE, *and the Nations ſhall not be able to abide his Indignation.* Jer. x. 10.

IT is this offenſive & miſchievous Thing that has moved Him to teſtify his Diſpleaſure in this lower World, and in every Age: To deſtroy not only particular Perſons, Families & ſmaller Villages; but even

whole

whole Cities, Countries, Kingdoms, with their vile Inhabitants, and in various manners. Famines, Fires, Wars, Tempeſts, Plagues and EARTHQUAKES are ſo many bitter Fruits and Tokens of his high Reſentment of the Sins of Men. There is no Calamity, tho' ever ſo great, extenſive, grievous, ſudden; but what our Sins, eſpecially when perſiſted in, expoſe us to, and provoke the righteous GOD to execute on us.

NOR will our ſacred *Covenant Relation* to Him, our high Profeſſion, or our formal religious Services, in the leaſt avail to ſecure us from them. No! Alas! They rather aggravate our Guilt, inflame his Wrath, and put Him on to mark us out with more ſignal Miſeries, as He declared to his ancient People, about Two Years before the Earthquake. Amos III. 1, 2. *Hear this word that the* LORD *hath ſpoken againſt you, O Children of* ISRAEL, *againſt the whole Family which I brought up from the Land of* EGYPT, *ſaying*; YOU *only have I known of all the Families of the Earth: Therefore I will Puniſh* YOU *for all your Iniquities.*

AND for *Particular Places* that have been moſt eminent for Religious Services -- See how ſeverely He threatned JERUSALEM of old, under the Term of ARIEL; i. e. *The Lion of GOD.* When ſhe grew rampant like that Creature in her violent and ſinful Courſes; He wou'd no more ſpare but treat Her with the utmoſt Rigour. He wou'd bring every Kind of Diſtreſs upon Her; and among the reſt this diſmal one. Iſa. XXIX. 1, 2, 5, 6. *Wo to* ARIEL, *to* ARIEL, *the City where* DAVID *dwelt: Add ye Year to Year, let them Kill Sacrifices: Yet will I diſtreſs* ARIEL, *and there ſhall be heavineſs & ſorrow, and it ſhall be to me as* ARIEL -- *Yea it ſhall be at an inſtant ſuddenly, Thou ſhalt be viſited of the* LORD *of Hoſts with Thunder, and with* EARTHQUAKE, & GREAT NOISE, *with Storm & Tempeſt, and the Flame of devouring Fire.*

THIS terrible Threatning is doubtleſs put on ſacred Record for our Admonition upon whom the Ends of the World are come: and the Righteous GOD may execute it when He pleaſes on the like provoking Towns

and

and Cities, O! That we might continually Remember it! and fear; leaſt as it has begun to be accompliſh'd on us, it ſhou'd go on to be fulfilled in it's extream Severity.

2. WHAT *abundant Reaſon have we to adore the Patience & Mercy of GOD, and be exceeding Thankful, that We, our Families & Towns are not ſwallowed up in this calamitous Diſpenſation.*

WHAT Loads of Guilt & Wrath are lying upon us: and how have they been growing every Year? How long have we been going on in our provoking Sins, againſt Light and Grace, Threatnings, Invitations, Mercies, Judgments, and every Means that GOD has uſed for our Reformation? And O! How heavy did we feel our Guilt, and what awful apprehenſions had we of the glorious Holineſs, Omniſcience, Power and Juſtice of an angry GOD in that diſmal Night of our Diſtreſs and Danger? Then we ſee no other Refuge but that mighty BEING, whom we had been conſtantly Offending: and yet to Him alone muſt we look for Safety.

AND while we felt Him ſhaking us over the dreadful Gulf, it may be of Fire and Brimſtone, and our Houſes over us alſo ready to give way every moment and cruſh us to pieces — O! How earneſt were our anxious Souls for ſpeedy Mercy & Deliverance? "O "LORD have Mercy on me, make haſt to help me! "Preſerve the Houſe from Breaking, and let me not "ſink into the Depths of the Earth! O GOD, in the "multitude of thy Mercy hear me! Let not the wa-"ter-floud over-flow, nor the Deep ſwallow me up, "nor let the Pit ſhut her mouth upon me! O LORD "Hear me, for thy Loving-Kindneſs is Good! Turn to "me according to the multitude of thy tender Mercies, "and hide not thy Face from me: For I am in Trou-"ble: Hear me ſpeedily: Draw nigh to my Soul and "redeem it, *&c.*

AND how wonderfully Gracious & Kind was GOD in our Time of Trouble. If He had put forth his Power in an higher meaſure, or had not ſtay'd his Hand as He did, but ſhaken us a few Minutes longer;

our

our Dwellings cou'd not have born the Shock, but muſt have fallen to pieces on us, deſtroy'd the Lives of Multitudes at once, and moſt miſerably cruſhed and broken others. What a doleful howling from mortal Wounds & Death had come out of our fallen Houſes? and what an aſtoniſhing Deſolation had we been this Day?

But his Divine Compaſſions wrought toward us, as they wonderfully did to Ephraim & Israel of old --- *How ſhall I give Thee up? How ſhall I deliver Thee? How ſhall I make Thee as* Admah? *How ſhall I ſet Thee as* Zeboim? *Mine heart is turned within me: my Repentings are kindled together: I will not execute the Fierceneſs of mine Anger: I will not return to deſtroy Thee: For I am GOD and not Man, the holy One in the midſt of Thee!* Hoſ. xi. 8, 9.

But that we may ſee ſomething more of the Greatneſs of our Deliverance; I ſhall here briefly mention theſe Two Things,

1. God's amazing Execution of this ſort of Judgments in other Places.

And,

2. His repeated Threatnings of them in theſe Parts of the World.

1. *GOD's amazing Execution of this ſort of Judgments in other Places.*

And here I muſt invite you, in the Words of the Pſalmiſt --- *Come, Behold the Works of the* Lord, *what Deſolations he has made in the Earth!* -- *I will ſpeak of the glorious Honour of thy Majeſty and of thy wonderous Works: And Men ſhall ſpeak of the might of thy terrible Acts, and I will declare thy Greatneſs.*

Nor need I here ſearch the Records of former Ages: But confine my ſelf to the Inſtances of the *laſt Threeſcore Years*; and even of theſe, the *moſt Remarkable* only; for it wou'd fill a Volumn to recite them all. And as I enumerate the Circumſtances, I deſire you to think, they might have been the ſame with us; and wou'd have been ſo, were it not for the wonderful Forbearance and Mercy of God.

In

In a Province of Persia, which lies in the same Latitude with ours * in 1667, there was an extraordinary Earthquake which lasted *Three Months*, and not only overturned Houses, Towers, Churches, &c. But swallowed up in one Moment *Eighty Thousand* Men, besides Women & Children. Multitudes of Villages and Towns, thro'out the Province were destroyed the same Day: Several Mountains sunk into a Level, and the great Roads were broken up and became unpassable. And about *Four Years* after, there was another Earthquake in the same Province, on New Years Day, which swallowed up abundance of People & Houses. (a)

In the famous City of Smyrna, which stands on a most convenient Harbour in one of the finest Bays of the World, is one of the principal Seats of Trade in the *Turkish* Empire, consisted of about *Ninety Thousand* People, and is not far † from our Latitude neither -- On *June* 30. 1688, at Noon Day, there was a terrible Earthquake, which in one Minute threw down most of the Buildings and shattered the rest. Immense Wealth was swallowed up: The Castle sunk into a Chasm that opened under it: and *Five Thousand* People perished. And to add to the misery, a few Hours after, a Fire broke our of the Ruins, which consumed the Rest of the City but a few scattering Houses, (a)

In the City of Naples ‡ on Saturday *June* 5. N.S. 1688, There was a dreadful Earthquake which ruined many of their stately Churches, Colleges, Palaces, and killed many People: And on the *next Day* another, which threw down many Buildings that were weakened the Day before. Three Ships were sunk in their Harbour. Several Seats and Places in the neighbouring Countrey were quite destroyed, and most of their Inhabitants swallowed up. Among the rest, Benevento was almost totally ruined; and of *Ten Thousand* People, there remained scarce *Six Hundred* alive. (s)

In the Kingdom and Island of Sicily, near the same Latitude ||, in the Night after Friday *March* 8. N.S. 1668, 9,

* Betw. Lat. 41. & 43. (a) Atl. Geog for *Asia*. † Lat. 38. ‡ Lat. 41. & 15. (s) *Shower* on Earthquakes. || Between Lat. 37 & 39.

came

came on a fearful Earthquake; which ſhook all the Buildings of *One* of their Towns to the Ground, and deſtroyed the greateſt Part of *Two* more. (*w*)

But this was nothing to that moſt amazing one which befel that Kingdom on *Jan.* 9. & 11. N.S. 1692, 3.

The Night after *Friday Jan.* 9. in a ſerene, warm and pleaſant Time, the Shakes began with a Quivering motion, and were ſo violent as to throw down a great many Buildings and fright the People into the Churches and Fields for Refuge. But on the *Lord's Day* following they came on like a ſwift Rolling Billow, and with ſuch a vehement Impulſe, as in *Four Minutes* to throw above *Fifty Towns and Cities*, with their magnificent Streets, Churches, Colleges, Caſtles, Towers and Pallaces, into utter Deſolations. Great Churches fell down at once, while the frighted People were at their Devotions and cruſhed them to Death by Thouſands. (*t*) In the adjoining *Seas* there was ſuch a furious Emotion, that ſeveral Ships as well as ſmaller Veſſels were drowned all along the Coaſt of the Iſland. And many conſiderable Towns & Cities were ſo wholly deſtroyed, that there were no Inhabitants left to give an Account of the manner of their ſudden Deſtruction. (*s*)

Among the Reſt, Catania, a famous, ancient, ſplendid City, full of Learning, Wealth and ſtately Structures, ſunk out of ſight in a moment. Some Fiſhermen in the Bay informed, They ſaw the City ſink down with the Noiſe, as of a Thouſand great Cannon diſcharged at once. And in the Place where it ſtood appeared a *Lake* with vaſt Heaps of Rubbiſh here and there above the Water. (*s*) Of *Eighteen Thouſand nine Hundred* Inhabitants, *Eighteen Thouſand* periſhed; the reſt having left it the Morning before: (*t*) and thro'out the Iſland, *One Hundred and Twenty Thouſand*, beſides the bruiſed and like to die, about *Twenty Thouſand* more (*s*.)

PALERMO the chief City at the other End of the Kingdom received ſome Damage in moſt of it's

(*w*) E of *Winchelſea*'s Relation. (*t*) *Lowthorp*, Vol. II
(*s*) *Shower* on Earthquakes.

Buildings, and of the People not above a *Hundred* killed, the reſt were ſpared. (s) But doubtleſs, we well remember the awakening Accounts not long ſince Publiſhed here of the late dreadful Earthquake which befell *that City* in the Night between the 1. & 2. of *Sept.* laſt was Twelve Month. It began between 10 and 11, and in a calm and ſerene Sky like ours; tho' at firſt the Shocks were not ſo violent and did no hurt: But ſoon increaſing they continued with great Fury for above *Twenty Minutes*: whereby about a *Quarter Part* of that large City was intirely overturned, and reduced to a Heap of Rubbiſh. In one of it's Wards, an whole Street gaped at once with a dreadful Noiſe: from whence there broke out Flames mixt with calcin'd Stones and a Torrent of burning Brimſtone, which conſum'd the whole Ward in *leſs than half an Hour*. In *Five Days after* there were *Three Thouſand* drawn out Dead from the Ruins, and many diſmally maſh'd to pieces: and 'twas computed that about *Fifteen Thouſand* People Periſhed in that amazing Convulſion.

At Batavia on the large Iſland of Java, in the *Eaſt Indies*, between the 4th and 5th of *Jan.* 1699. there was an Earthquake, whereby *Sixteen Hills* ſunk down with a great Noiſe, in the adjacent Country. (l)

And at Lima the principal City of *Peru* and the largeſt in South America, on *June* 17. N. S. 1678, there was a terrible Earthquake, which ruined a great Part of the City. (f) And on Monday, *Octob.* 20. N. S. 1687. at *Four* in the Morning came on another with an horrible Noiſe; when ſome Houſes fell and ſome Perſons periſhed under their Ruins. At 5, a ſecond Shock with the ſame Noiſe. And at 6, when they tho't they were all in Safety, came on a Third with a ruſhing Noiſe and great Fury. The Sea roaring aroſe beyond it's Bounds: The Bells rung of themſelves: The Deſtruction was ſo great that no Building ſtood: Several Places round about were ruined: Above *Five Thouſand* Dead Bodies were found, and they found more Daily when the Accounts came away: ſo that they knew not their Number (l)

(s) *Shower.* (l) *Lowthorp.* Vol. II. (f) *Frezier's* Voyage

BUI

BUT to come a little nearer Home.

THERE are many in this Aſſembly that well remember the fearful Tydings of that Earthquake in JAMAICA, on *June* 7th 1692. It came on between 11 & 12 at *Noon*, in a clear, calm and Sun-ſhine Day. It began with a *ſmall Trembling*, ſo as to make ſome think of an Earthquake: which Tho't was confirm'd by a *ſecond Shake* ſomething ſtronger, accompany'd with a *hollow rumbling Noiſe* almoſt like Thunder, which made them begin to run out of their Houſes. But alas! This was but ſhort warning for them to provide for their Safety: For at the Heels of the ſecond came the *Third & moſt violent Shake*, which threw down and drowned 9 *Tenths* of PORT-ROYAL their Capital Town in *two Minutes*, and all the Houſes by the Wharff in *leſs than One.* (*l*)

THE *Streets* roſe like the Waves of the Sea; lifting up all that were in them, and immediately dropping down into Pits. The Shake was ſo fierce, that it threw the People on their Knees and Faces, as they run in the Streets to ſeek for ſafety. In ſeveral Places the Ground wou'd Crack and open and ſhut quick & faſt in a wonderful manner. Some have ſeen *Two* or *Three Hundred* of theſe *Openings* at one time. In ſome of which many of the People were ſwallowed up: Some the Earth caught by the middle & ſqueez'd to Death: The Heads, Arms or Legs of others only appear'd above Ground. At the ſame Time a Flood of Water guſhed out & roll'd over others: Some caught hold of Beams and Rafters: Others were afterwards found Dead and almoſt covered with Sand. Some who were ſwallowed quite down, roſe again in other Streets, being caſt up with great Quantities of Water, and ſome into the midſt of the Harbour: and yet ſome of theſe thro' the wonderful Goodneſs of GOD were ſaved; while others that went down quick, were never ſeen more.

THESE were the *ſmaller Openings*. The *larger* ſwallowed Great Houſes: and out of *ſome* there iſſued whole Rivers ſpouting to a vaſt Hight in the Air, with ill Stenches that were very offenſive. All the Wharves

(*l*) *Lowthorp*, Vol. II

and ſome of the *Houſes* ſunk at once: And the moſt ſo ſoon, that the People had no time to get out; thoſe who were in the upper Chambers meeting the Water at the Garret Stairs as they were running down for Safety. While ſome of the Houſes were quite ſwallowed up in the Earth; others were thrown on Heaps: And even the beſt Streets in the Town full of ſtately Buildings ſunk ſo deep as to be near *thirty Foot* under Water.

Several *Sloops and Ships* were overſet & loſt in the Harbour. The Sea ſuddenly riſing & ſwelling with a ſtrange Emotion, came rolling with ſuch a Force as to drive the Ships from their Anchors, breaking their Cables in an Inſtant, and daſhing them againſt the Tops of the ſunken Houſes.

While the Earth was labouring in theſe Convulſions, the People run up & down, pale & trembling with Horror, like ſo many Ghoſts; as if the Diſſolution of the whole Frame of the World were at hand.

And yet the Shake was ſtronger in the *Country* than in the Town, where it left more Houſes ſtanding than in all the reſt of the *Iſland*; tho' it be more than *One Hundred & Sixty Miles* Long, and about *Fifty* Broad. They were almoſt all either thrown down or ſwallowed up. And my Author ſays, It is not to be doubted, if there had been *Five Thouſand Towns* in *Jamaica*, but every one of them had been ruined.

The Waters of Wells above 30 Foot deep flew out at the Top. In ſeveral Places the Earth gaped prodigiouſly with great Spoutings of Water. The Sky which before was clear & blew, become in a minute, dull & rediſh, like a red hot Oven. Amazing Noiſes were made by the Fall of the Mountains & the Rumblings that were heard under Ground.

In the *Mountains* were the moſt violent Shakings. Some falling down, ſtopt up the Roads & Rivers; and many were thrown in Heaps upon others. A great Mountain ſplit, and tumbling, drove all the Trees before it, and overwhelm'd ſeveral Settlements with their Inhabitants, a Mile off. Another large high Mountain ſunk & was quite devoured: And in the Place thereof aroſe a *Lake* 12 or 15 Miles over.

In a certain Ground on the Northern Side of the Iſland, the Planters Houſes, with the greateſt Part of their Plantations, were ſwallowed up, Houſes, People, Trees and all in *one great Opening*; in the room of which aroſe at firſt a *Lake* of *a Thouſand Acres* extent; But afterwards it dryed away, and left not the leaſt appearance of Houſe, Tree, or any thing elſe that was there before.

In fine, The Earth continued ſhaking for *Two Months* after: And all the while, the Mountains tottering, and bellowing moſt loud and hideous Noiſes. About *two Thouſand* People periſhed in Town, a *Thouſand* more in the other Parts of the Iſland; and 'tis tho't, if the Shakes had fell out in the Night, but very few had been left alive. Great Numbers of Dead Bodies were floating from one ſide of the Harbour to the other; ſometimes *one* or *two Hundred* in an Heap, as the Winds and Seas drove them. And ſuch a general Sickneſs preſently follow'd which few eſcaped, and was very fatal. Half the People ſaved from the Earthquake at *Port-Royal*, are ſaid to have Died of the Sickneſs at *Kingſton*: where *Five Hundred* Graves were dug in one Months time, *Two* or *Three* buried in *One* Grave. About *two Thouſand* ſwept away; and in the Reſt of the Iſland a *Thouſand* more. (*l*)

On *Feb.* 19. 1687,8, at 8 in the *Morning*, there had been a *ſmaller Earthquake*, which was generally felt thro' the Iſland at the ſame Time or near it, and was much like ours. It came by *Three* ſeveral *Shocks*, with a little Pauſe between; was accompanied with a ſmall Noiſe, and laſted about a *Minute*. The Ground roſe like the Sea in a Wave, as the Earthquake paſs'd along to the Norward. Some Houſes were crack'd and almoſt ruined. The upper Floors eſpecially reel'd, as if the Foundations of the Houſes were raiſed: In the upper Chambers it had more viſible Effects than below; the Things being moſtly thrown off the Shelves: And the People were generally in a great Conſternation. But the aſtoniſhing Earthquake, which fell out about *Four* Years and three quarters after, makes this to be the leſs remarkable. (*l*)

(*l*) *Lowthorp* Vol. II.

And thus I have mentioned ſomething of God's amazing Execution of this Sort of Judgments in *Other Places.* We may now briefly,

2. *CONSIDER his repeated Threatnings of the ſame in* THESE PARTS *of the World.*

This is no leſs than the *Eighth* or *Ninth* Earthquake which has been perceived in this Country ſince our Fathers Arrival hither, and even within this *Ninety* Years. *Four* or *Five* of the Shocks were indeed much ſmaller & leſs extenſive. But this is the *Fourth* that has been very General & very Awakening.

The *Firſt* of them all was on *June* 2. 1638. Mr. Morton ſays, It was *a Great & terrible Earthquake.* It was heard before it came with a rumbling Noiſe like remote Thunder. It came from the Norward & paſſed to the Southward. As the Noiſe came nearer, the Earth began to ſhake: And it quickly roſe to that Violence as to make the moveables to clatter and fall. Thoſe who were in their Houſes were afraid of their falling: And others abroad were not able to ſtand, but were forced to catch hold of Fences to preſerve themſelves. About *half an Hour after*, came another Noiſe & Shaking, tho' not ſo loud or ſtrong as the former. It was *far in the Land* as the Indians obſerv'd: and not only aſhoar, but alſo at *Sea*, ſome Ships on the Coaſts being ſhaken thereby.

The ſame Author tells us, That in 1658 there was another *Great Earthquake* in *New-England.*

And on *Jan.* 26. 1662,3, at the ſhutting in of the Evening, there was a *very Great Earthquake*; and the ſame Night *Another*; tho' ſomewhat leſs than the former. And on the 28th of the ſame Month *Another* about 9 in the Morning. *

And after ſeveral ſmaller ones in the Interval ſince, This laſt ſeems to be the moſt dreadful of all, among us.

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* CANADA ſeems to have been the chief Seat of this Great Concuſſion. For on the very ſame Day, viz. JAN. 26. O. S. 1663, Monſieur FREZIER tells us, Began an amazing Earthquake There, which continued till JULY following & made Incredible Alterations on the Surface of the Earth for 400 Leagues thro' the Country. And CLUVERUS gives us a moſt hideous Deſcription of it, in his HISTORIARUM totius mundi EPITOME.

And now, When we hear what Deſolations have been made by this terrible Judgment in other Parts of the Earth, and how often we have been threatned Here with the ſame; How greatly do theſe things inhance our Deliverance? How glorious ſhou'd the Mercy and Patience of God appear this Day in our Eyes? How high ſhou'd it raiſe our Thankfulneſs to Him? How affectionately ſhou'd we rejoice in the Lord our Deliverer? And how loudly ſhou'd we declare his Greatneſs and Sing forth his Praiſes.

And as for the *other Occaſions* of the preſent Solemnity; this great Deliverance comprehends them all: Inaſmuch as without it, we had never arrived to this chearful Day, nor had now the Seaſon to take any Delight in our other numerous Temporal Bleſſings.

However, to ſee the aſtoniſhing Goodneſs of God in the midſt of the Signs of his Anger, Let us a little conſider and compare them together.

A moſt Gracious Proteſtant King removed by Death * --- And yet Another with his moſt excellant Princess advanc'd to the Throne in the moſt peaceable manner, with the General Joy of their Subjects, and the Preſervation of the numerous Branches of their moſt hopeful Family. A ſurprizing Change in the ſupreme Head of Government --- And yet the undiſturbed Continuance of the Great Friends of the Nation in their Places of Power; with the Enjoyment of our invaluable Liberties both civil and ſacred, and the joyful Proſpect of the Continuance of them. A univerſal Diſturbance among the Powers of Europe -- and yet the appearance of a General Peace, under his Majeſty's wiſe Adminiſtration and extenſive Influence.

A very ſtrange and general *Sickneſs*, with ſeveral awful *ſudden Deaths* in the Spring of the Year --- And yet in the moſt of our Towns a ſmall Mortality. The threatning *Sword* of War drawn by ſome diſtant and ſeparate *Indians* --- and yet the continuance of *Peace* in *our Borders*; with the Preſervation of our

* *June* 11. O. S. at *Oſnaburgh* in *Germany*.

Fiſhery,

Fiſhery, Trade and Sea-faring People from the Hands of rapacious and inhumane Pirates. A very great *Drought* in the Summer --- and yet ſeaſonable Rains with the unexpected Springing of the Graſs in Autumn; and a plentiful *Harveſt*. SUCH extream long *Heat* † as has never been known among us, and therewith a raging *Sickneſs* in ſome of our Towns --- and yet a merciful Abatement of it, and a general *Health* in others. Extraordinary terrifying *Thunder & Lightning*, ‡ with their dreadful Strokes on the Earth in diverſe Places, Houſes ſtruck and Cattle killed--- and yet not a Soul deſtroyed. A moſt violent *Tempeſt* ‖ as has been remembered among us, which has broke many Buildings --- and yet on Shoar, but one Life loſt; and our Shipping as far as we learn preſerved at Sea. How many times have our Houſes began to *Flame* --- and yet not one conſumed. And finally, As the moſt remarkable of all theſe Diſpenſations of Heaven, a great and *univerſal Shake of the Earth*; which has overturned Walls, removed Rocks and rack'd our Dwellings --- and yet not one ſingle Houſe thrown down, nor one Perſon wounded. *

ON the Account of ſuch a great Variety of extraordinary Frowns and Smiles, of threatning Judgments and of ſparing Mercies; This ſeems to be one of the moſt *Remarkable Years* that have rolled over us: wherein we have had the moſt ſurprizing Diſcoveries of the merciful Forbearance of GOD, in the midſt of our growing Offences and in the fearful Tokens of his holy Diſpleaſure.

3. and laſtly, *FROM hence we learn the various Duties both of the preſent Time & of our future Lives.*

To GOD moſt high ſhou'd we aſcribe our continual Preſervations. To Him ſhould we yield the Glory. His great Goodneſs ſhould continually lead us to ſincere Repentance & Reformation.

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† Eſp. from July 28. to Aug. 7. both Day & Night inclusively.
‡ Particularly in the Night between Aug. 1. & 2.
‖ On Sept. 16. and the Night following.
* I mention not the Damp in the Well, fatal to Two Men in BOSTON July 19; Becauſe I wou'd not launch into Particulars, but only mention Providences of a more General Nature.

HAS

HAS He ſpared our LIVES from eminent Death; we ſhou'd now preſent both our Souls and Bodies as living and conſtant Offerings, Holy and acceptable to Him which is our moſt reaſonable Service. Has He preſerved our FAMILIES; we ſhou'd do our utmoſt that GOD may be feared, honoured and worſhiped in them. Has He preſerved our HOUSES; all Iniquity ſhou'd be purged from them, and they ſhou'd be the Dwelling Places of Juſtice and Holineſs. Has He preſerved our SUBSTANCE; This ſhou'd be devoted to Him; and more than ever employed in Charitable and pious Uſes. And has He ſhewn us how uncertain are our EARTHLY RICHES, and that for ought we know they may quickly ſink and periſh with us; O! How ſhou'd we take off our Affections from them, carefully Improve them while we have them, and be more concerned to make ſure of *Heavenly*?

ARE our PLACES *of Publick Worſhip* ſtill continued; How ready ſhou'd we be to come and pay our Vows therein to our Great Preſerver? Are his *precious* ORDINANCES yet diſpenſed, and have we now a Seaſon of waiting on Him in them; O! How highly ſhou'd we prize them, how carefully attend them, and how ſpeedy to obſerve them all without Exception; leaſt we never have an Opportunity more. How ſhou'd multitudes now preſs in to the CHURCH of CHRIST which is yet opened to them; and to his HOLY TABLE, which ſtill is ſpread for them, and they are moſt earneſtly Invited, yea Commanded to without Delay.

O *Delaying Sinners!* Did you not ſeem to repent of *theſe Neglects* and of all other Sins, and earneſtly Deſire the Opportunity you now enjoy, when the Angry GOD was ſhaking you over the dreadful Pit? And if this does not awaken you; what can you imagine will? And if now you wont perform your Vows, improve your preſent Time, and return to GOD, thro' CHRIST; what can you expect but that this moſt awful Threatning ſhou'd only ſerve to ripen you for the moſt ſudden and exemplary Vengeance and Deſtruction?

LET us then have a care of thinking that our impending Danger or the Bitterneſs of Death is paſt, when the Shakes of the Earth ſeem to be over. Let us beware of returning to our former dangerous and vain *Security*. While we remain diſobedient to the Glorious GOD; we are even continually in as great an Hazard as we were in the moment of the moſt threatning Convulſion. And to make us ſenſible of this, *He is yet continuing to ſhake the Earth in ſome Parts of the Land*: And how ſoon, how ſuddenly, and where He will give the dreadful Blow to thoſe that won't regard or be warned by Him --- He only knows. But utter Confuſion may come in a moment on us, as it hath on others, either while we are *Sleeping*; or if we are *Awake*, when He will no more hear our deceitful Cries & Promiſes, no longer bare with ſuch abuſive Sinners, nor let us eſcape, nor have one Minutes time to Repent, Believe in CHRIST, or prepare for Death or Judgment.

LET us therefore always bare in our Minds the Scriptural *Threatnings* of this fearful Calamity, with the ſurprizing *Inſtances* of their ſudden Execution on others. And let us remember the GREAT and TERRIBLE DAY of GOD is haſtning, and how near we know not --- when the LORD of GLORY ſhall come down to ſhake the Heavens and the Earth to pieces, to ſet this lower World on Fire, to refine it, and to conſume the Sinners out of it; that it may be a Place of Righteouſneſs and fit for his Dwelling. Then, tho' the *Jews* may have the diſtinguiſhing Grace to mourn with Repentance, when they ſee Him they have pierced, yet the *reſt of the Tribes of the Earth* ſhall mourn with utter Diſpair. And then ſo inſufferable will his Brightneſs quickly appear; that tho' at firſt they might fly from the tottering Rocks and Mountains, they will ſoon fly back to get under them, and wiſh them to fall & cover them from the Face of Him that ſits on the Throne, and from the Wrath of the Lamb. *Rev.* VI. 12, --- *e.*

TO

TO Conclude, LET us therefore now this moment look to this only SAVIOUR, Receive Him in all his Offices, Give up our ſelves wholly to Him for ever: And then live in the Exerciſe of every watchful Grace & Duty; with our Lips and Lives continually Praiſe Him; & abound in the delightful Contemplations of Him, till we come to long for that Illuſtrious Appearance. And then We ſhall lift up our Face with an holy Joy and Confidence; our temporal Dangers will end in Eternal Safety; our trembling Dwellings be changed for an unmoveable Kingdom; and our anxious Fears will vaniſh in perfect Quietneſs and Aſſurance for ever.

FOR of that Great Day we have the lively Deſcription in Nahum I. 2,---8. *GOD is jealous and the* LORD *revengeth, the* LORD *revengeth and is furious, the* LORD *will take Vengeance on his Adverſaries; and he reſerveth Wrath for his Enemies. The* LORD *is ſlow to Anger, and great in Power, and will not at all acquit the Wicked: the* LORD *hath his way in the Whirlwind, and in the Storm, and the Clouds are the duſt of his feet. He rebuketh the Sea, and maketh it dry, and dryeth up all the Rivers: Baſhan languiſheth, and Carmel, and the Flower of Lebanon languiſheth. The Mountains Quake at Him, and the Hills melt, and the Earth is burnt at his Preſence, yea, the World, and all that dwell therein. Who can ſtand before his Indignation? and who can abide in the Fierceneſs of his Anger? His Fury is poured out like Fire, and the Rocks are thrown down by Him.* THE LORD IS GOOD, A STRONG HOLD IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE, AND HE KNOWETH THEM THAT TRUST IN HIM: *But with an overrunning Flood He will make an utter End of the Place thereof, and Darkneſs ſhall purſue His Enemies.*

The End of the Second *SERMON.*

The APPENDIX.

GIVING a brief Account of this Earthquake *in* OTHER PLACES.

THIS great Convulſion ſeems to have reached all over the Continent with the neighbouring Iſlands from the *Rivers* DELAWARE in *Penſilvania* Southweſtward to PENOBSCUT beyond *Caſco-Bay* *North Eaſtward*; which is above 500 Miles Extent: And not on the Sea-Coaſts only, but as far within Land as there are *Engliſh* Settlements; tho' not ſo terrible in ſome Places as others. The General *Courſe* of the *Tremor* ſeems to have been about N. W. & S. E. Tho' in ſeveral Places it ſeemed to run in different Points of the Compaſs, according to the various Windings and Ranges of the Caverns below. And thoſe Parts of the Country that lie to the *Nor-Weſtward* ſeem to have had it a few Minutes ſooner, and thoſe to the *South-Eaſtward* a few Minutes later than we at *Boſton*.

AT *Philadelphia* they write of but *one* Shock, and this not ſo ſtrong as Here. At *New York* and *Long-Iſland* they mention *Two*; the ſecond more fierce than the former, and much like ours. At *Stratford* & *Gilford* in CONNECTICUT, they perceiv'd it but a few Minutes after X of the Clock; And in the laſt Town it tolled a Bell and ſhook down a Chimney. At *New London*, a Houſe was rock'd and remain'd leaning about Two Foot over. At *Dartmouth*, the Roaring was plainly heard by the Rev. Miniſter There, being then out of Doors, to come along with great Swiftneſs from the *Nor-weſtward* and to paſs off *South-eaſterly*. At *Dorcheſter*, the moſt terrible Noiſe ſeem'd to be among the *Blew Mountains*, which ſome then abroad, concluded were ſunk. At *Eaſtham* on *Cape Cod*, the whole Atmoſphære appeared in a Blaze. The Veſſels off at Sea againſt *Caſco Bay*, and in the Harbour at *Marblehead* felt the Firſt great Shock as if they had run on ſmall Ballaſt, and the Agitation of the Waters made them ſheer and quiver: And in the laſt of theſe Places, in about *Nine* or *Ten* Days after, the Rumblings were heard about *Thirty* Times.

BUT the Towns about MERRIMAK *River* have it ſeems been viſited in a more awful manner than others. AT *Hampton*, upon their firſt hearing the Noiſe, a Flaſh of Light was obſerv'd at the Windows, and a Blaze

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Blaze was ſeen to run along on the Ground, and then the Shake began. The Brute Creatures run roaring about the Fields as in the greateſt Diſtreſs. A Spring of Water which had boiled over ever ſince it was known, *viz.* for *Fourſcore* Years, and never froze, was now ſo far ſunk as they were forc'd to dig to raiſe it, tho' they could not raiſe it to it's former Height, and now it freezes in moderately Cold Weather.

AT *Newbury*, ſeveral Cellar Walls fell in: The Hearth of a lower Room ſunk into the Cellar and a Man with it. And in a low Ground the Earth broke in *Three* or *Four* Places, and caſt up a conſiderable Quantity, and in one Place near 16 or 20 Cartloads of extream fine blewiſh Sand, like the Aſhes of burnt Brimſtone.

AT *Bradford*, there were *Two* Wells that uſed to have *Six* Foot Water, and had ſo when the Shake came on: But ever ſince, the Springs are ſunk and the Wells dried up.

AT *Andover*, by the Road ſide, on a riſing Ground; a ſpot in a firm dry Soil, is become a very Springy Place, and ſuch a great Quagmire now in the Road as makes it dangerous Travelling.

IN the Towns on *both ſides the River*, a vaſt deal of Stone Wall was thrown down and the Tops of ſeveral Chimneys: The Houſes built of Brick were very much crack'd & ſhatter'd: And there has ſcarce a Day paſs'd ever ſince,* wherein they have not heard the fearful Noiſes and felt their Dwellings jarr and tremble. The laſt Repetition we hear of, was on *Lord's Day* and *Monday* Mornings *Jan.* 7. & 8. Between 1 of the Clock & Break of Day.

THE People are thereby thrown into the utmoſt Conſternation. And ſo mightily are many awakened with the Senſe of their Danger and the Divine Diſpleaſure, as has produced a wonderful Reformation. Profanneſs, Drunkenneſs and other Vices abandoned; the earneſt Purſuits of the World diſcarded; the Places of Publick Religion vaſtly thronged; the Worſhip of GOD ſet up in Prayerleſs Families; and great Numbers continually added to the flouriſhing Churches. Twenty, *Thirty* or *Forty* on a Sabbath have offered either to make or renew their Dedication to the Bleſſed GOD: In one Aſſembly above *One Hundred & Fifty* in Three Weeks time; and of theſe above *Fourſcore* in one Day; And about *Fourſcore* more on another in a neighbouring Congregation.

WHAT a Joy is There, even as the Joy of Harveſt, and as Men rejoice when they divide the ſpoil! What an happy Effuſion of the HOLY SPIRIT! And O! How

* *Viz.* to *Nov* 30. when this was firſt Publiſhed.

ſhou'd

how'd this excite us not only to Glorify GOD for his great Goodneſs and his wonderful Works among *Them*; but alſo earneſtly to Deſire and Pray that the ſame Grace may be likewiſe ſhown to *Us*, the ſame SPIRIT Poured out on us and ours in the ſame glorious meaſures! And how ſhou'd their Examples ſtir us up to the wiſe & happy Imitation! For *the Fear of the LORD is the Beginning of Wiſdom: and a good Underſtanding have all they that do his Commandments.*

I ſhall *Conclude* this *Appendix* with a brief ACCOUNT of ſome extraordinary Providences of the like Nature with ours, on the Year paſt, in *ſome other Parts* of the World, and eſpecially the BRITISH Dominions.

IN the laſt *Summer* & *Autumn* they had the like extream *Hot Weather* in ENGLAND; whereby a great many People Died, eſpecially in the City of *London*. They have alſo had extraordinary *Thunder* & *Lightning*; whereby many Barns and Houſes were fired, & both Cattle & People killed in the Country. On Wedneſday *July* 19, there was a violent Shock of an *Earthquake*, much like ours in the *Weſtern* & *Norweſtern* Parts of the Kingdom. And on the 20th of *Aug.* in the County of *Kent*, there were ſeveral *Brooks* on *Fire*, which continued burning for ſeveral Days, the Waters being it ſeems well charged with ſulphureous Particles, to the great Surprize of the People round about.

At MARTINECO, which is above 2000 *Engliſh* Miles South of *New England*; on Friday *Octob.* 27, at Noon, there was a very ſurprizing Earthquake; which ſhook down their Priſon, ſplit & very much ſhattered their Church and Court Houſe, damaged ſeveral Houſes, intirely ruined a great number of Sugar Mills, and killed ſeveral People by the falling of them. A hideous Noiſe attended the Shake. At Four *Afternoon* they had another terrible Shock, and on the *Lord's Day* another: And they were repeated almoſt every Day till the 10th of *Novemb.* following. The Waters near the Shoar boil'd up to ſuch a Degree, that thoſe who were on them tho't they ſhou'd have periſh'd immediately. And upon caſting their Eyes on the Earth, they plainly ſaw the whole Body of the Iſland, the greater Hills & Mountains with the leſſer, riſing & falling in a ſurprizing manner.

AND at BARBADOS, which is near 100 Miles yet further Southward; on Saturday, *Octob.* 28. at *Noon*, they had a Shake in the Earth like Ours. The Houſes were in a great Convulſion, and the Streets aroſe & fell like the Waves of the Sea: So that they were afraid the Earth wou'd ſink under them, and run to the Wharves to get into Boats & Veſſels for Safety.

FINIS.

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